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Control: 9474
Rec'd: August 23, 1954
8:28 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 209, August 23, 5 p.m.

PASS DEFENSE

Castillo Armas desires purchase immediately three military wheeled completely armored vehicles with radios weapons and ammo for personal protection. He does not wish disclose this to any members his government except Minister Communications Martin Prado Velez and especially not (repeat not) to Guatemalan Embassy staff in Washington. Although I am not (repeat not) convinced of necessity for these vehicles recommend we honor his request as gesture of goodwill and as means of eliminating Castillo's fear for personal safety. Therefore, request Department initiate confidential procurement at once and inform Embassy of cost. Castillo's wishes re detailed manner of making shipment can be worked out later.

PEURIFOY

JM

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